E. A. Mearns.
July 2, 1879.

Highland Falls, N. Y.
July 2, 1879.

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I send a photo which I wish to exchange for one of yourself.

Let me know if you are still working at your "First plumages", and, if so, if a couple of specs. each of Myiodioctes mitratus & Helminthophaga chrysoptera will be of use to you, seeing that you have not described the former at all, nor the first plumage of the latter. So if you will let me know when you wish them, I will send them on. I would like to have one of each back again.

I am
Very respectfully
Edgar A. Mearns.

E. A. Mearns
July 12, 1879.

Highland Falls, N. Y.
July 12, 1879.

Mr. Wm. Brewster

Dear Sir!

I write to ask a favor of you, viz. that you will send me the various phases of plumage of Helminthophaga chrysoptera, for comparison with a female chrysoptera (?), or some other species, which I cannot identify. I have a ♂ juv. of chrysop. and his specimen of leucobronchialis from Shoreo, which I will keep till I hear from you. I have thought it possible that my bird was leucob. ♀. If so, I will send her two young ones (first plumage) to you for description along with the young

chrysoptera; but guess my bird will prove to be chrysoptera. I have no females in my collection, but a fine series of adult males. The only ♀ I have seen is one at the Vassar College museum, of which I made a memorandum, which does not agree with the ♀ I now have. If you can send me 6 pair of ♀ I will be very glad, and will return them immediately.

Please send by Express. I will return them together with the young birds I spoke to you about.

Very respectfully
Edgar A. Mearns.

Mr. William Brewster
145 Brattle St.,
Cambridge, Mass

Edgar A. Mearns
July 22, 1879

Send specs. by to-day's Express. As there is no office here I cannot pre-pay Ex, but will thank you to send me the amount, which I will remit.

Highland Falls, N.Y.
July 22, 1879.

Dear Mr. Brewster!

The box containing four specs. of H. chrysop. came safely yesterday evening. By the aid of the beautiful series of specimens which you sent me, I was able to decide about my bird, which I have labeled "chrysoptera ♂ (ad.?)". I had no specimens at all, except adult & 1st plumaged males in my coll. or else I should have been satisfied at once that it was only a singular plumage of chrysoptera. You will see at once that the throat and head-stripe of my bird were hardly noticeable; and indeed I did not discover the former till I compared

it with your young female. The yellow color of its ~~breast~~ vent'l surface reminded me of Shores' younger leucobronchialis, which, owing to my lack of materials, led me to consider that it would be worth investigating, to see if it were not that species.

Shores sent me a fine young male, in ♂'s plumage, with ventral surface yellow, which I was very glad to see. I think I have got chrysoptera's varieties all right now.

I send my ♀ chrysoptera (the bird in question) together with its two young ones, which differ from the first two young birds in showing no signs of a black throat (the first two were proved to be ♂♂ by careful dissection, while the sex of the last two young was indeterminable). I return both pairs of young birds together with your fine suite of specimens, and a ♂ and 2 first plumages of Myiodioctes mitratus (sex could not be determined).

I appreciate your kind offer to send me your Leucobronchialis, and thank you for it and your present favor very much indeed. I want one young male chrysoptera, and (in case you do not need it to make out your series) the ♀ chrysop's back again, but am in no present need of them. See the attus. I will be glad to have your Keeh. I will try and send you good specimens of M. mitratus in autumn & 1st plumages again before the season is over. I am with many thanks

Yours truly

Edgar A. Mearns.

brother-in-law. Besides these I have a number of random specs. from Teute, Wilson, Merriam, Lawrence, Eagle, etc, etc. But the thing I am now working at — whenever I have a moment to work at anything — is a collection of a large number of specimens, of every stage, of the species common to this continent and the Old. I have a good collection of Bds. of Great Britain and a pretty full series of their eggs, and those of Greenland, and Iceland; the latter procured from Copenhagen.

In your "Nesting of Large-billed Water Thrush" (Bulletin. Vol. III, No 3, July 1878, pp. 133 to 135) you entirely ignore Coues' description of its nest & eggs (B. N. W. p. 73), although you cite Audubon, Tripp and Ingersoll. Please let me know why this was; and it will oblige me if you will ~~give~~ advise me of any recent records or captures of its nest and eggs, as I wish to give a little account of its habits in my list, in next issue of Essex Bulletin.

I am
Very truly yours
Edgar A. Mearns.

E. A. Mearns.
Aug. 5, 1879.

Will endeavor to get fall plumage of Myiodioctes virens.

Highland Falls, N. Y.
August 5, 1879.

Mr. Wm. Brewster
Dear Sir!

I write to say that I regret having returned Mr. Shores' young ♂ H. chrysoptera; otherwise I should take the liberty of sending it to you, as you desired. I am sure that Shores will be glad to send it to you, if you write, and ask him to do so. Its ventral surface is not all yellow, as in any ♀; but much more so than in any of your ♀♀. I will send you H. chrysoptera "♂ No 1944" at an early moment, by mail. You may keep it if you choose, as I possess no especial interest

it is hardly worth while for me to attempt to fill up my series at present, tho. I hope to be able to do it partly for myself, some time.

Old memories and associations cluster 'round the specs. which one gathers for himself, and they often carry a vivid impression of beauty and happy days spent, which other specimens cannot. Still, I have no objections to getting as many specimens as I can, and, at some future time, hope that you may be willing to exchange some of your duplicates with me. At present I have a tolerably good collection of the birds of the Hudson River, and a fair series of specimens which represent the avifauna on the birds of Fort Klamath, Oregon, which were collected for me by my

to me, except as representing the slightly worn summer plumage.

I would like to have one specimen of H. chrysoptera, jun., but, as you have a much finer series of that species than myself, I shall ask you to keep it for yourself, along with the rest of the specimens which were sent, including (if of any use to you) the "♂ No. 1944."

I have never had a specimen of Protonotaria citrea, and will be very glad indeed to possess one of your beautiful specimens, several of which I have seen in the collections.

I have such a poor collection of American Birds, that "Hawks" is a barely correct term, in speaking of my desiderata; but as my time is fully occupied by other matters

E. A. Mears.
Aug. 19, 1879

Highland Falls, N. Y.
August 19, 1879.

Dear Mr. Brewster!

Your letter and box came safely. I was delighted to get the exquisite specimens of Prothonotaria citrea which will always remind me of your article, published in the Bulletin, on its habits, as observed at Mount Carmel, which I have just reread.

I had a long letter from Shores a day or two since, in which he complained of being a victim to his family; says he has been able to do very little field work this season, so that, at this rate he will be glad to "hunt books in New York" with

me after the 1st of October, when we will both be at the Medicine again.

My friend, Thos. W. Wilson, who has been establishing an orange plantation at Lake George, Fla., walked in upon me yesterday, with a package under his arm which contained, on exploration, a beautiful skin of Campephilus principalis. He sent me a very interesting account of its habits, last winter, which was read at one of our Linnaean meetings. I was right glad to get my first spec. of the species, and yet more so to see old Tom once more. He has struck it out for three years in Fla., without coming home once.

I am going to ask you a few questions about Bluebirds in America, when I find time. I shot a fine male, in ~~Fulton~~ Washington Market, N.Y. last winter, which was sent from James River, in a box full of American Sweets. Would like to work up the records of its capture within country, when I record my bird.

I am
In haste
Very truly
Yours
Edgar A. Mearns.

Dr. E. A. Mearns

Aug. 17, 1883

Highland Falls, N.Y.
August 17th, 1883.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I am duly in receipt of your favor asking me to be present at the founding of an American Ornithologists' Union, and am pleased to be invited.

I will see you there on Sept. 26th, I trust.

I had intended to take a run out your way, and see the ornithological friends with whom I have corresponded, before going to my post in January; but this ornithological congress will bring you all to New York, where I anticipate great pleasure

in meeting you all
[illegible].

I am going to New
York in October, to label
the European birds in the
American Museum of Nat. Hist.,
where I have deposited my
Canine collection [illegible],
& staying for some month
[illegible] in January. Since
I wrote you last have
entered the Army as Ass't. Surg.

Have not collected many
birds this summer, and
[illegible] young birds have a brown
[illegible] first plumage. Last
winter, took some northern
[illegible].

I remain,
Very cordially yours
Edgar A. Mearns

Dr. William Brewster.

E. A. Mearns

Nov. 19. 1889

[illegible] Nat'l Bank,
77th & 78th Ave.,
N.Y. City.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

Enclosed Mr. Ridgway sends some Solitary Sandpipers this morning, having black wings & peculiar backs & dimensions. I had collected a large series from Snelling, Minnesota for comparison, with measurements in the flesh, etc. Ridgway tells me you are about to describe a new Western race. If you must Arizona & Minnesota specimens I will send you mine with the measurements, colors soft parts etc. My Minn. skins are not here yet, but will [illegible] in a few days. [illegible] 6 [illegible] [illegible] If the Arizona form differs from the Pa. coast form, it should not be

in the least surprised.

I would like to know if Larus delawarensis ever has yellow legs & bill, what color the eyes are in adults, and any other facts bearing on the Western variety of this species. I have at least three old breeding birds from Uvalde, differing from all descriptions accessible to me here, which may prove to be a new form. I visited Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Jamaica etc. but did not take it as ~~a~~ yet, since I came east. The birds are equal in different plumages, smaller, slightly, and a little different colored, more longer. This bird is only a case of seasonal change of color in soft parts, like Mr. Torrey's new Louisiana Heron, as yet undescribed.

I think the birds of Texas & Arizona (residents) are different also. I worked at them all [illegible] color or the most [illegible] your [illegible] & northwestern. [illegible] too [illegible]? I should like to compare notes and specimens occasionally when I get some of the monotonous work off my hands.

[illegible] you want the Arizona & Mexican skins of L. californicus & [illegible]

Sincerely yours

E. A. Mearns.

Chin Mus - Dec. 7, 1889.

My dear Mr. Brewster

Came this for your [illegible] much pleasure, and I thank you very much for your [illegible] specimens. I do not get an opportunity to leave I will only [illegible] time to finish the [illegible].

The Museum cases have been delayed exasperatingly — can't get my things unpacked. I have nearly all of the Solitary Vireos but a few extreme specimens with [illegible] yellow spots above are labelled [illegible] from the Gray Cat. I will [illegible] as soon as possible — in a few days. [illegible] has come to [illegible] in [illegible] collection.

It was very kind of you to offer to let me have [illegible] of [illegible] in exchange for Virginia. Possibly I may have to offer [illegible] of that work after I have [illegible] the Museum [illegible].

I enjoy every minute of my museum work and am sorry to leave at night.

Yours

Sincerely yours

E. A. Mearns

E. A. MEARNS.
DEC. 7, 1889.

Edgar A. Mearns.
March 11. 1890.

Fort Snelling, Minn.
March 11, 1890.

My dear Mr. Brewster:—

Your kind favors came duly, and were gratefully appreciated. I am deeply interested in the Sparrow Hawks now. Their last nothing of special interest has been noted in the series of Snipes and Virginia Rails that I am studying; but I have found a strongly marked race of the Sparrow Hawk from Oregon & S. California. If Mr. Allen's decision should be favorable I shall be very glad to get the specimens of these birds from the Museum of Comp. Zoo. even as late as Capitol. The Cuthan=ian specimens have not yet come to hand. I am eagerly awaiting them and hoping to get those in your mus.

2

My studies of the Mammals have come to a stop, awaiting Mr. Allen's decision. I will be grateful if you will let me know whether it is favorable or the more as soon as possible, as I am holding specimens from the Museum until I hear.

I thank you very much for your interest, and regret putting you to so much trouble.

I am very glad you sent for my Arizona Red-tails, and am glad to know your determination of them. I shall always be pleased to know that the specimens sent to the Am. Mus. are useful and used by such as myself. I hardly feel that it would be right for me to kill so many birds for myself, having so little time to study them, but if they are useful

to ornithologists generally, I will not have that feeling about specimens in series ~~the~~ as I have been doing.

Please accept my thanks for your paper describing so many new birds. I am very glad of the chance of seeing it so soon — before the issue of the Auk.

Thanking you sincerely for your kindness, I remain

Yours truly

Edgar A. Mearns

P.S. I expect soon to describe several new mammals besides results to be anticipated from the examination of your Mus. Comp. Zool. specimens, but have done little towards getting my notes in shape for publication as yet.

Great writer which has flown all too swiftly! I wish to congratulate you on your success.

Allen

Fort Snelling, Minnesota
Jan. 26, 1891.

To Mr. William Brewster
Curator Dept. of Mammals and Birds.
Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I desire to make a critical study of several species of mammals and birds, with a view to determining their specific relationships, and the amount and character of their geographical variation. To this end I would like to borrow the material of these species, to be presented, named, in your museum, not including mounted or alcoholic specimens, for comparison with others in hand. ~~The~~ Any specimens which may be sent me will be carefully kept, and promptly returned when my studies of them are finished. The favor, if granted, will be highly appreciated.

The following-named specimens are desired:-

Birds:-

(a) Any specimens of the Falco sparverius group,
~~(b) " " " Galinago delicata,~~
~~(c) " " " Rallus virginianus.~~

Mammals:-

(a) All skulls (from any locality) and any skins from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, or California of Mephitis mephitica.
~~(b) California skins and skulls of the Little Spotted Skunk [Mephitis (Spilogale) interrupta].~~
~~(c) All skins of the Otter (Lutra).~~
~~(d) All skulls of the American Badgers (Taxidea), and any skins from the latitude of Colorado and southward.~~
(e) Skulls of Felis concolor from localities east of the Great Plains ~~Mississippi River.~~
(f) The type of Tamias quadrivittatus neglectus, recently described by Dr. Allen from a specimen collected on Lake Superior Expd. by Prof. Agassiz. This especially desired for comparison with a large series of (probably) this new Chipmunk, which I recently collected in Wisconsin.

Should my request be granted, I would ask that the specimens be forwarded by express, C. O. D., at an early date.

I am
Very respectfully
Edgar A. Mearns

Skull of Panther (*Felis concolor*) and type of *Tamias neglectus* Allen, usually lumped. Also horns of Pronghorn Hawks
(Now in all cases mounted)

[illegible]

Mearns - Edgar A. P. May 3, 1891.

Fort Snelling, Minn.
June 3, 1891.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I assure you that your efforts to procure additional material for my studies of Sparrow Hawks & Mammals from the Museum of Comp. Zoology are very highly appreciated. I have given you a good deal of trouble, which I regret the more because your kind help has been without result.

If, at any time, I can serve you by adding to your collection, in the lines of your special studies, I shall be glad. Of course the specimens I have collected, and shall in future collect, are at your service through the institutions that I send them to. I would not collect specimens for any museum on any other basis. I feel that I can do more to advance the departments of science in which I am interested by gathering material than in almost any other way, so long as I am in the army; but I do not believe in exalting material (specimens) above the science which they represent.

I remain
Most cordially your friend
Edgar A. Mearns

Mearns- Edgar A.
Jan. 8 189[illegible]

Mearns - Edgar A.
April 8, 1895.

Fort Myer, Va.
Via Washington, D.C.
April 8, 1895

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I have read your introductory and other editorial notes in the new edition of Minot's Birds of New England, and think you have blended it with rare tact and skill. I like your introduction. I have always liked Minot's book, and am glad to see a new edition of it.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kindness in remembering to send me the book, which I appreciate and value more highly for this association.

I remain sincerely yours
Edgar A. Mearns

Mearns, E. A.
July 6, 1901

Sent them to Miller already

Fort Adams,
Newport, R. I.
July 6, 1901.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

In the Kissimmee Val=
=ley, Florida, I collected breeding Grasshopper Sparrows (Ammodramus savannarum subsp.), which make a very strong rack. Mr. Ridgway thinks Maynard's australis, from Bahamas, does not cover this form, notwithstanding his (Maynard's) note in O. & C., 1889, p. 60, in which he extends its range to Fla. and Texas (= pratallidus!).

From Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, jr., I leave that Maynard's type is in your collection. Will you kindly send it to Mr. Ridgway for comparison and greatly oblige

Yours truly,
Edgar A. Mearns.

Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island.
February 3, 1902.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I have just read your letter with great pleasure — especially because it convinces me that you really mean to publish that bird-book on the Cape Region. We have all awaited it with more hope than expectation. But I am rejoiced most of all that you are well enough to resume such work. I have recently passed through a year of physical and mental incapacity and fully appreciate the objectionable features of such an existence. I never can be quite well again; but three months of duty have really improved my condition. I know that you will appreciate my happiness at being able to work again even if with less energy and ability than formerly.

We have just been ordered to the Yellowstone National Park for station at Fort Yellowstone. I expect to start about the end of March; and my family will follow when the children have finished their school terms — in June.

If you are at Cambridge and not too busy with the book and other things it might be possible for me to run up and spend a day or two before I leave — in March. I shall be very sorry to go to the West again without visiting you.

Nelson wrote me suggesting that I should withdraw the description of 'Tachycineta lepida' from a paper describing 4 new birds, accepted for Proc. U.S.N.M., and present it, for immediate publication, to the Proc. Biol. Soc., in order to make it available for your use. This I did at once, several weeks ago, condensing and rewriting the description of T. lepida and returning it at once for printing in Proc. Biol. Wash. Since then I have only heard that the paper was turned in for publication, and do not know the cause of delay — perhaps lack of funds. I wanted Nelson to ask you to take up the whole T. thalassina group; but he thought you were principally interested in clearing up the ground for your Cape-Region paper, and suggested again the course that have taken. I hope the Biol. Soc. will get it out in time for you; but should your name appear first you may feel perfectly assured that I am happy in the result. You should name the Cape bird as a species, of which range will then become a subspecies lepida.

Cordially Yours
Edgar A. Mearns

Mearns Edgar A.
2/3/02.

my relatives, and my friends; but did you ever have diabetes, hook-worms, grippe and such people as Richmond all reacting on a senile brain — no, not yet, so you cannot under=stand. I am sorry, grateful, and ashamed. Forgive me and believe that I appreciate.

Out of the ten persons whom I come into daily contact with in the bird rooms, eight have had the grippe, and some have been very sick. Ridgway and his wife have had a hard go of it; and I have been up to see them every day for a week past. Robert is much better to-day. He had an abscess of the antrum which, fortunately,

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON

Febr. 10, 1911.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

Uncle Henry came in and grabbed me: "Did you get Brewster's book? Why did'nt you acknowledge it?"

I stood petrified, but knew myself too well to deny the accusation. Now I hand you the whip and hold up my hands. The lord loves whom he chasteneth, so lay on the whip, for I do not want you to be wroth with me.

I love this book of yours. So does my wife.

Dear friend, I feel myself a disgrace to myself and

opened into the nose. He telephoned me this morning that he awake free from pain, but got up (he simply cannot be kept in bed) and started up a little pain; but I feel that he about over his trouble.

Richmond is back at his desk, but really should be in bed.

Of course there is nothing to me but African birds for a year or two. I am enjoying the work very much, and worked every day in the month until hook worms & grippe knocked me over for ten days.

I believe you will forgive me; but I know Uncle Henry will not answer my knock until he hears that you have flogged me soundly,

Your affectionate friend
Edgar A. Mearns.

You write with difficulty, as you have told me; but the finished result is such that many have said to me that you wrote with unequalled smoothness and facility — that writing was easy and natural to you.

The only reason I have for telling you this is to make you feel that your work is "worth while."

The best work I ever commenced was discontinued because an editor unfavorably criticised my efforts, & made me think it was not worth while.

I am glad you have been putting in good licks on the Birds of the Umbagog Region.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON

Feb. 13, 1911.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

As my daughter would express it in boardingschool vernacular, you are "a dear." But I doubt being able to square myself with Uncle Henry.

We have a man in the bird department, studying birds of course, a great admirer of Elliot Coues's writings, who confided to me, the other day that you were the most interesting writer of bird lore in the country. I think he is right.

Ridgway and Richmond are back at work; & Mrs. R. is better. I am working but not with my usual enthusiasm. Heller starts for Africa Friday & I hope his 6-months trip will improve his health & result in more African birds to work up.

E.W. Nelson's brother (from Holbrook Arizona), is visiting him, & I have renewed my acquaintance with his two fine boys. E.W. & I are planning a "loafing" expedition, somewhere in the future, in the mountains & deserts of Arizona. We feel the "call".

Thanking you for your forgiveness

I am Sincerely Your friend

Edgar A. Mearns.